[Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu] [24th January 1928

"Secondly, Sir, the other proposition covers all the grounds that can possibly be advanced by any section of the House. I therefore earnestly appeal to my friend not to press his amendment."

* Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support the amendment of Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. In doing so, I should like to answer the proposition put bfore us by the hon. Member from Cocanada. Sir, he has admitted that as the Commission is constituted at present, he himself is not prepared to agree and that if it is constituted in some other way, he might consider. So, this amendment 'as it is at present constituted' ought to be acceptable to Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. In supporting this amendment, I wish to make a few observations. I make them not as a politician but as a businessman, and all the same as an Indian.

"The time and the manner in which the Statutory Commission was appointed has resulted in a wild storm of protest in India and the movement for the boycott of the Simon Commission has received the support of every political party worth the name. I do not believe there is any section in this House which will ignore or deny it. I believe every section of this House is prepared except the non-official Europeans and the so-called depressed classes, to boycott the Simon Commission on one ground or another and with some modification or other. As has been explained by Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar, our object in putting up this amendment is to make it acceptable to all sections of the House.

"Sir, we are asked by the Government to believe that the Statutory Commission is the best commission that India can expect. I would like to state honestly and candidly that we have not the slightest confidence in the Simon Commission. (Mr. S. Satyamurti : 'Hear, hear.') We do not believe that they possess any knowledge of India or Indian conditions or have any sympathy for Indian aspirations. Sir John Simon may be the greatest constitutional lawyer and an able advocate. But, in my opinion, to have too clever a lawyer is always a dangerous thing. (Laughter.)

"Mr. President, as I said once, and I repeat it once again, in this House, there are only two sections, one the non-official and the other the so-called depressed classes who are against the boycott of the Commission. As a businessman, Sir, I must say that the non-official Europeans are the best and the most honest business people. They are most straightforward and in business, I should prefer Europeans to Indians. But, I say, what I feel in my heart of hearts, rightly or wrongly, whether my views carry weight with others or not I only say what I feel. Now, Sir, may I ask them one simple question? Have they ever stood up on the side of the Indian people against the British Government?

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Hear, hear. That is their honesty."

* Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA :—" I was only referring to their business honesty."

Mr. S SATYAMURTI :—" Parliamentary honesty."

* Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA :—" I cannot recall one single instance, Sir, in which they have supported us in our quarrels with the Government except in one or two commercial matters in which it touched their pockets. (Laughter and Swarajists : 'Hear, hear'.) In 1919 when Mr. Montagu arrived in India, what did the non-official Europeans do? Did they not get into a panic and